

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 7, 17-19, 21, and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 24-26.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-5,
- b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-5,
- c) a polypeptide comprising a biologically active fragment of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-5, and
- d) a polypeptide consisting of an immunogenic fragment of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-5.

2. (Original) An isolated polypeptide of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-5.

3. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 1.

4. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 3 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:6-10.

5. (Original) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.

6. (Original) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 5.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:
- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and
 - b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.
9. (Original) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.
10. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide ~~comprising a polynucleotide sequence~~ selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:6-10,
 - b) a polynucleotide comprising a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:6-10,
 - c) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide ~~sequence complementary to of~~ a),
 - d) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide ~~sequence complementary to of~~ b), and
 - e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).
11. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 10.
12. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 10, the method comprising:
- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 16 contiguous nucleotides ~~comprising~~ of a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide, and
 - b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.
13. (Original) A method of claim 12, wherein the probe comprises at least 30 contiguous nucleotides.

14. (Original) A method of claim 12, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

15. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

16. (Original) A method for treating a disease or condition associated with decreased expression of functional CME, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment the pharmaceutical composition of claim 15.

17-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a sequence of claim 4, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, and
- b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide.

24. (New) A method of screening for a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under suitable conditions, and
- b) detecting binding of the polypeptide of claim 1 to the test compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1.

25. (New) A microarray wherein at least one element of the microarray is a polynucleotide of claim 11.

26. (New) A method of generating an expression profile of a sample which contains polynucleotides, the method comprising:

- a) labeling the polynucleotides of the sample,
 - b) contacting the elements of the microarray of claim 25 with the labeled polynucleotides of the sample under conditions suitable for the formation of a hybridization complex, and
 - c) quantifying the expression of the polynucleotides in the sample.
-